

Serial No.: 09/157,018

Attorney Docket No: MCS-013-98

REMARKS

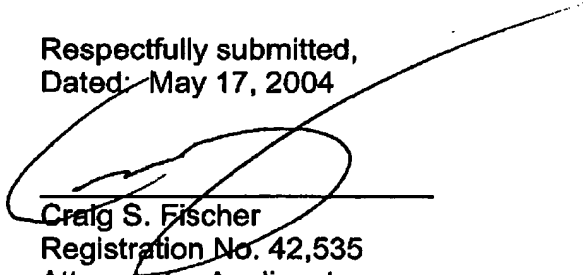
In response to the final Office Action dated March 18, 2004, claims 1-12 and 18-30 have been canceled. Therefore, claims 13-17 and 31-34 are now in the case. The Applicants respectfully request that this amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 to place the above-referenced application in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the amended application are requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the allowance of claims 13-17 and 31-34. With the cancellation of rejected claims 1-12 and 18-30 in this amendment, all of the claims in this application are under allowance. The Applicants submit, therefore, that subject application is in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this subject application to issue.

In an effort to expedite and further the prosecution of the subject application, the Applicants kindly invite the Examiner to telephone the Applicants' attorney at (805) 278-8855 if the Examiner has any comments, questions or concerns, wishes to discuss any aspect of the prosecution of this application, or desires any degree of clarification of this response.

Respectfully submitted,
Dated: May 17, 2004



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